REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 22, 2003, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0112150 A1 (Lawing).[1]

As amended, claim 1 is clearly allowable over Lawing. Lawing does not disclose launching a start routine in a first one of the nodes in response to a request to start the system, the start routine causing a service to be invoked in each of the nodes, and the services starting selected software components in respective nodes of the processing system.

Lawing describes a network administrator establishing parameters of a login routine 20 (at a network host 12). The network administrator then directs the network host 12 to send the login routine 20 to reside on network clients 14, 16, and 18 (*see* Figure 1 of Lawing). Lawing, ¶ [0022]. However, once the login routine 20 is sent to the network clients, the login process performed is a *local* login process performed at each *network client*. Lawing, Fig. 2. A login screen 32 is presented to the network client so that a user can initiate the login routine *at the local computer* by providing personal security information. Lawing, ¶ [0024]. In response, the network client initiates the login routine 20 (*at the network client*). *Id.* Upon completion of configuration of the network client by the login routine 20, a startup routine 22 is executed. *Id.* Thus, what is performed in Lawing is local startup of a network client by a user, which involves a user entering login information to cause a login routine to be started, followed by a startup routine. Although the login routine 20 is sent from the network host 12 to the network clients, the login routine 20 is actually locally initiated in each network client in response to login by a user at the network client.

This teaching of Lawing is distinguished from what is recited in claim 1, where a start routine is launched in a first one of a plurality of nodes, *with the start routine*

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[1] Note that the § 102(e) date relied upon by the Office Action is the filing date of the parent application Serial No. 09/177,086, filed on October 22, 1998, now abandoned. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0112150 A1 (Lawing) is a CIP of the parent '086 application. The parent '086 application discloses less subject matter than U.S. Publication No. 2002/0112150 A1. Therefore, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any rejections that rely upon the subject matter disclosed in Publication No. 2002/0112150 A1 but not in the parent '086 application.

causing a service to be invoked in each of the nodes, and the services to start selected software components in respective nodes. This is not taught by Lawing. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Lawing.

With respect to independent claim 13, Lawing does not disclose a database system having a plurality of nodes and software components executable in corresponding nodes, where the software components comprises a query coordinator in each node to process database queries. Moreover, Lawing does not disclose a start procedure executable in a first one of the nodes to invoke services in respective nodes to control starting of software components.

With respect to independent claim 20, Lawing fails to disclose a database system having a plurality of nodes and database software components executable in corresponding nodes. Also, Lawing fails to disclose a manager module to control the database software components in the plural nodes and to enable a monitoring module to monitor statuses of the database software components in the nodes.

With respect to independent claim 21, Lawing fails to disclose receiving a command to start database software components in the plural nodes, launching a start routine in a first one of the nodes in response to the command, and issuing requests (from the start routine) to respective nodes to invoke services for starting database software components in respective nodes.

Newly added independent claim 33 is also allowable over Lawing because Lawing fails to disclose a database system having a plurality of nodes, database software components executable in corresponding nodes, and a start procedure executable in a first one of the nodes to invoke services in respective nodes for starting database software components.

All dependent claims are allowable over Lawing for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1673 (9172).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____ Nov. 24, 2003_____

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